[0018] In an alternate embodiment, each end of the handle **130** may be joined directly to the trouser legs at the ends of the bridge.

[0019] Each of the Various components of the assistive garment may be attached together by way of suitable techniques. For example, fabric components may be sewn or stitched together. Stitching may employ machine sewing techniques for attachment. For example, sewing may use conventional lock stitch techniques such as, for example, straight or zig-zag stitching. Additionally or alternatively, fabric pieces may be sewn, such as by way of a serger, using an overlook or "merrowing" stitch. Stitching may employ single or multiple threads. For example, a lock stitch may comprise a top thread and a bobbin thread. In another example, an overlook stich may employ multiple threads. An overlook stitch employing more threads may be stronger and more resistant to failure than one employing fewer threads. Additionally or alternatively, other fabric joining techniques such as, for example, riveting, may be employed.

[0020] Garments made primarily from sewn fabric or from fabric and other softer materials may be more comfortable when worn such as, for example, during sleep than a garment with harder surfaces.

[0021] As illustrated, primary handle **140** and secondary handle **145** are each fabricated out of distinct pieces. Primary handle **140** and secondary handle **145** may be attached such as by way of one of the above described sewing or stitching techniques. Additionally or alternatively, all or a portion of primary handle **140** and secondary handle **14** may be made of the same fabric piece. With seams suitably located to join them to other components of garment **100**.

[0022] All or a portion of assistive garment **100** may be made out of more than one layer of fabric. Layered fabric may improve strength and/or durability as compared to unlayered fabric. In some cases only certain parts of a garment may be layered such as, for example, if the construction of garment **100** utilizes sewing techniques that may employ layering such as for, example, French seams, lapped seams, plackets, or the like. Additionally or alternatively, interfacing may be incorporated into the interior of garment **100** such as to, for example, stiffen various portions of assistive garment **100**.

[0023] Optionally, trouser legs **110** may feature fasteners on one or both sides of each trouser leg. Fasteners may make the garment easier to don such as, for example, by permitting trouser legs **110** to be placed around a wearer's legs, without requiring that each of the wearer's legs be pushed through each trouser leg, by opening the fasteners, donning garment **100**, and closing the fasteners. Suitable fasteners may include, for example, strong zippers as may resist forces applied during manipulation of the limbs by way of assistive garment **100**.

[0024] Referencing FIGS. **3** and **4**, each trouser leg **110***a*, **110***b* is worn around a respective lower limb of a wearer so as to encircle a portion of a corresponding lower limb of the wearer. As illustrated, each trouser leg **110***a*, **110***b* is dimensioned to encompass a respective thigh of the wearer and extends from a top position on a respective thigh of the wearer down to a bottom position on a bottom portion of that thigh, the bottom position terminating above the corresponding knee **214** of the wearer.

[0025] In other embodiments, trouser legs **110***a*, **110***b* may be part of a pair of trousers that extend up to the waistline of a wearer, Additionally or alternatively, trouser legs **110***a*, **110***b* may extend below the knees of a wearer such as, for example, down to the ankles. These alternate embodiments may, however, be significantly more difficult to don for someone without full function of their lower limbs. With each embodiment, the bridge **116** may be attached to the trouser legs so that, in use, the bridge is proximate to, but above, the knees of the wearer. An attachment point closer to the knee of a wearer of assistive garment **100** may offer improved manipulation of the legs as compared to a mounting point closer to the waist. For example, such a lower attachment point may increase the effective moment arm for manipulations of garment **100** using handle **130**. Further, an attachment point above the knee reduces the likelihood of injuring a knee joint while manipulating the legs with garment **100**.

[0026] With reference to FIG. **3**, once the garment is donned, in use, the wearer may grasp primary handle **140** with a first hand **210** and the secondary handle **145** with a second hand **220**. Force may be exerted on one or both of the handles, such as for example by way of pulling or twisting movements. Such forces are transferred to bridge **115** by way of the interconnection of handle **130** with bridge **116**. As trouser legs **110***a*, **110***b* encompass at least a portion of each of lower limbs **200**, such forces are, in turn, be transferred to one or both of lower limbs **200**. In this way, one or both of lower limbs **200** may be repositioned.

[0027] FIG. **4** is a perspective view illustrating a manipulation of the lower limbs of a wearer as may be obtained by way of the assistive garment. As illustrated, lower limbs **200** of the wearer of assistive garment **100** have been moved towards the chest of the wearer as compared to the position of the wearer in FIG. **3**.

[0028] It will be apparent that bridge **115** acts as a tether between the trouser legs such that the lower limbs of a wearer both move when the handle **130** is moved. Further, even when the handle **130** is not being used by the wearer, the bridge, in concert with trouser legs **110***a*, **110***b*, acts as a tether between the legs of a wearer which limits motion of one of the legs relative to the other. In this way, certain body positions may be avoided. For example, the bridge may limit the ability of the wearer's legs to achieve positions where they are splayed apart. Conveniently, in this way, uncomfortable body positions may be limited such as, for example, during sleep.

[0029] Primary handle **140** is dimensioned so that, as illustrated, the apex of the primary handle **140** overlies the chest of a wearer when extended towards the head.

[0030] A garment equipped with secondary handle **145** may facilitate use of the garment. For example, a user could grasp the primary handle **140** with one hand and the secondary handle **145** with the other to increase the force that may be applied to the legs. Also, with the wearer's legs bent, it may be more difficult to manoeuvre the legs with the primary handle **140** as this would require the wearer to raise an arm farther than may be comfortable. Thus, in such circumstances, the wearer may prefer to use the secondary handle **145**. Further, by manipulation of one of the handles **140**, **145** in concert or in opposition to the other of the handles, such as by way of, for example, using a first hand **210** and a second hand **220** as illustrated, one or both of translational and rotational forces may be applied to one or both of lower limbs **200** using assistive garment **100**.

[0031] With the garment, while on a bed, not only may a wearer reposition his lower limbs on the bed but also, while